TORNADO/WIND STORM

The following section discusses Wind Storms and Tornadoes. Wind Storms are discussed in two separate categories: thunderstorm winds and high wind events. Damaging winds are often called "straight-line" winds to differentiate the damage they cause from tornado damage. Most thunderstorm winds that cause damage at the ground are a result of outflow generated by a thunderstorm downdraft.

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air, suspended from a cumuliform cloud or underneath a cumuliform cloud, and often (but not always) visible as a funnel cloud. Most of the time, these vortices remain suspended in the atmosphere. When the lower tip of a vortex touches the earth, the tornado forms and often becomes a force of destruction.

HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

The National Climate Data Center (NCDC) database reports that 17 tornadoes have occurred in Howard County between 1975 and 2019. The database indicates there were eight EF0, seven EF1, and two EF2 tornadoes. The NCDC database reports that 115 (Thunderstorm) Wind Storm Events have occurred in Howard County between 1969 and 2011. Of the 115 events, six included winds of 60 knots (69 mph) or greater. A derecho with wind gusts of up to 80 mph passed through Howard County on June 29th, 2012. On June 21, 2016, an F0 tornado touched down in western Howard County. The tornado traveled nearly 13 miles and left a path of debris over 500 yards wide.

WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

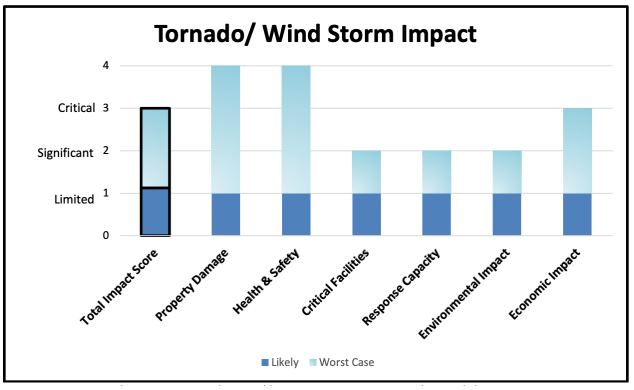
There is an expected **11-30% Chance of Annual Occurrence** of a Tornado/Wind Storm in Howard County. In the most likely Tornado/Wind Storm scenario, **the Total Impact is considered Limited**. In the worst-case scenario, **the Total Impact is considered Critical**.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Howard County averages one tornado every four years.
- There have been zero tornado-related fatalities in Howard County since 1950.
- Tornadoes can occur at any time, with the greatest frequency during the late spring and early summer months, and during late afternoon and early evening hours.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Ready.gov



Tornado/Wind Storm Risk Profile

	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
LIKELIHOOD	Likelihood	3.1 Likely		50%
CONSEQUENCE	Impact	1.1 Limited	3 Critical	40%
	Warning Time	4 Short	4 Short	5%
	Duration	1 Short	1 Short	5%
TOTAL RISK SCORE		**2.2**	**3**